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Message Text

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67
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 /094 W
---------- 079422
R 161720Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9400
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LOME 1566

PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR
SUBJECT: GOT RESERVED ON SEKOU TOURE INITIATIVE ON BORDER DISPUTE

1. GOT PUBLICIZED FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION TO PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE'S INITIATIVE IN MALIAN-UPPER VOLTAN DISPUTE WHEN FONMIN HUNLEDE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, JULY 15, TO REPORT LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EFFORTS TOWARD SETTLEMENT. CONFERENCE TELEVISED, SHOWING GRAVE BUT POLITIC HUNLEDE. ONLY EARLIER PUBLIC NOTICE OF CONAKRY SUMMIT WAS JULY 14 FRONT PAGE FACTUAL ACCOUNT IN "TOGO-PRESSE" OF SEKOU TOURE'S VISIT TO BAMAKO AND OUAGADOUGOU. ARTICLE MADE SIMPLE REFERENCE TO CONAKRY TRIPARTITE MEETING AS EFFORT TO FIND DEFINITIVE SOLUTION.

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2. HUNLEDE'S REMARKS CONTAINED TODAY'S "TOGO-PRESSE". HUNLEDE

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SAID THAT HAVING TAKEN CHARGE OF TWO VOLTAN PRISONERS AND
MILITARY MATERIEL IN BAMAKO SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, HE HAD BEEN
REQUESTED BY MALI TO MAKE SIMILAR GESTURE ON ITS BEHALF.
HE THEREFORE HAD GONE TO OUAGADOUGOU ON JULY 14 TO OBTAIN
RELEASE OF 33 MALIAN PRISONERS AND MATERIEL, ABOUT 15 MILITARY
TRUCKS. HUNLEDE REMINDED PRESS THAT DECISION TO LIBERATE PRISONERS
AND RESTORE CAPTURED MATERIEL WAS DECISION TAKEN IN LOME IN
JUNE. HE SAID MEMBERS OF LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION (LMC) HAD
BELIEVED THAT, TO DEFUSE DISPUTE, MEASURES OF DETENTE
WERE NECESSARY ON BOTH SIDES. HE STRESSED THAT CONSEQUENT
STEPS TO LIBERATE PRISONERS, RESTORE MILITARY MATERIEL, OPEN
MALIAN-VOLTAN FRONTIER AND PERMIT FREE CIRCULATION OF PERSONS
AND GOODS FLOWED FROM DECISIONS TAKEN BY LOME SUMMIT AND NOT
FROM GUINEAN INITIATIVE. DECISIONS (TO TAKE THESE STEPS) HAD
BEEN ANNOUNCED WELL BEFORE CONAKRY TRIPARTITE MEETING. "THEREFORE,"
HUNLEDE SAID, "I REPEAT, THESE MEASURES WERE NOT TAKEN AS RESULT
OF CONAKRY MEETING, BUT OF LMC MEETING...IN OUR CAPITAL."

3. HUNLEDE CONCLUDED AS FOLLOWS: "WE CANNOT SPEAK YET OF SETTLEMENT
OF CONFLICT. YOU KNOW THAT DURING LOME SUMMIT CHIEFS OF STATE OF
LMC MEMBER COUNTRIES DECIDED TO CREATE NEUTRAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
COMPOSED OF ONE JURIST, THREE CARTOGRAPHERS, ONE ETHNOGRAPHER,
ONE ARTILLERY OFFICER, TO DETERMINE PRECISELY FRONTIER BETWEEN
UPPER VOLTA AND MALI. THIS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
WORK AND WE THINK THAT SHORTLY ITS MEMBERS WILL GO TO THE FIELD. AT
CONCLUSION OF THEIR WORK THEY WILL PRODUCE REPORT. LMC'S
CHIEFS OF STATE WILL THEN MEET AGAIN, ALSO HERE IN LOME, TO
PROPOSE SOLUTION TO DISPUTE. IF THERE HAVE BEEN INITIATIVES
HERE AND THERE, THESE DO NOT, IN OUR VIEW, GET TO ROOT OF PROBLEM
WHICH REMAINS AND WHICH MUST BE SOLVED." RAWLS

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To: STATE
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